

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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## ROAD CONTRACT LET.

### Fort Mill Township Highways to Be Improved.

The Fort Mill township bond commission, composed of Messrs. T. B. Spratt, W. B. Meacham and W. H. Crook, meeting Monday afternoon, awarded the contract for grading and top-soiling the Steel Creek road from the northern limits of Fort Mill to the North Carolina line, a distance of approximately four miles, and for the two miles of road leading from the southern section of town to Bailes' bridge which is also to be graded and top-soiled, to J. W. Houseal of Wimsboro, the contract price being \$21,600. There were a number of bidders for the work and Mr. Houseal secured the contract by bidding only \$40 less for the entire job than another bidder.

Following the announcement that he had been awarded the contract, Mr. Houseal stated that it was his purpose to begin work on the roads within ten days or two weeks and that he would employ two construction forces, one on the Steel Creek road and the other on the Bailes' bridge road. The Jaudon Engineering company of Elberton, Ga., is the engineering firm employed by the commission to see that the work is done according to contract.

The announcement that these important roads are to be improved will be gratifying news, especially to the eastern section of the county, and when the work is completed many people living just across the line in Mecklenburg county who now go elsewhere to buy their farm and household supplies are expected to come to Fort Mill for that purpose. The improved road to Bailes' bridge connecting York and Lancaster counties also is expected to prove of considerable value, heretofore unknown, in a business way.

In connection with the award of the contract for the improvement of the Steel Creek road, Col. T. B. Spratt, chairman of the commission, stated that while there would perhaps be disappointment that the commission did not also ask for bids for improving the road through the Gold Hill section, the understanding was that the Gold Hill road was a part of the north and south highway to be taken care of by the county authorities under the provisions of the Stewart road law.

### Candidates Two Years Hence.

"Although the 1922 State Democratic primary for State officers is less than two weeks behind us and the next primary will not be held until August, 1924, politicians in Columbia have already begun to talk of possible candidates in the next race for the governorship and for the seat in the United States senate now held by Senator Dial, whose successor will be chosen two years hence," a day or two ago said a State senator from the central part of the State. "One of the leaders of the Blease forces said to me within the last week," continued the senator, "that Blease himself would not again be a candidate for governor, but that he and his friends were sure to insist upon Congressman Fred Dominick making the race against McLeod two years hence."

"Another thing these Columbia politicians are saying is that Congressman Jim Byrnes of the Aiken district will enter the race against Senator Dial and that Congressman W. F. Stevenson of the Fifth district also is expected to become a candidate to succeed Senator Dial."

### Two More Tax Days.

After today only two days remain for taxpayers who have not paid their 1921 State, county and school taxes to meet their obligations without having a visit from the sheriff. Under the recent extension granted by Walter E. Dumas, comptroller general, the time for the collection of the taxes has been extended to October 1, rather than September 15, the date first set for the collection.

## WEEVIL RUINS CROP.

J. T. Akin, former editor and publisher of the Rock Hill Evening Herald, has just returned to Rock Hill from an automobile trip to points in Georgia, where he gathered considerable information concerning the growing of cotton under boll weevil conditions. Speaking of his trip, Mr. Akin said:

"The best cotton I saw in this State or in Georgia was in Spartanburg, Greenville and Anderson counties. The crops around Hartwell, Ga., were the best that I saw anywhere in Georgia. The crops around Rock Hill look better than the crops in middle Georgia, where the boll weevil damage appears to have reached the maximum."

"Coweta county, Ga., situated southwest of Atlanta, is a fair index to conditions in middle Georgia. Their record crop was about 45,000 bales. In 1920 the crop was about 30,000 bales, last year it was 88,000 bales and this year it will not be more than 4,000 or 5,000 bales. I gathered this information from the best farmers and cotton men in the county. The general conditions brought about by this slump in cotton production are, in an agricultural sense, disastrous. A number of fertilizer plants, oil mills, cotton buyers and cotton warehouses have gone out of business and the effect is being felt in all lines of business. This section of Georgia is now feeling the full force of the weevil."

In some sections of Georgia where the weevil first put in its appearance some of the farmers told Mr. Akin they find that they can grow cotton under weevil conditions by dusting with calcium arsenate according to the directions of the United States department of agriculture expert. He said in one field where the calcium arsenate was not used not so much as a 10 per cent crop will be made while the fields treated with the poison show a normal growth.

### Town Hall Dilapidated.

"Possibly it is not one of the really serious matters of the day, but I should like to have The Times call attention to the dilapidated appearance of the Main street side of the town hall," yesterday said a Fort Mill citizen. "A number of lights have been broken out of the windows and for the sake of the appearance of the hall if for no other reason they ought to be replaced. I do not know whether the military company, which uses the hall as an armory, is responsible for the missing lights or not, but I suspect that it is, and if this suspicion is well founded, the military company should see that new lights are put in at once."

### Chicken Thief Dropped \$900.

William Schrock, a farmer of Listie, Pa., entered his chicken house one morning recently and discovered that 30 of his best fowls had disappeared. He found a large leather pocketbook under a window where the thief evidently had entered. Opening the pocketbook Schrock was amazed to find it packed full of bills. The man who took the chickens had left behind \$900.

A few days later a claimant for the money communicated with Schrock. The owner was a well known citizen of the neighborhood. He asked Schrock to take out a reasonable sum for the chickens and send the balance to him. Schrock wants a different kind of settlement, however, and the matter may get into the courts.

### Never Tasted Strong Drink.

While he was in Fort Mill Tuesday, Governor Harvey stated to a citizen of the town that he had never tasted either whiskey or wine. "I hope I am not fanatical in my opposition to strong drink," said the governor, "but I am at least consistent in my attitude toward it. I have yet to see the man who was benefited socially, morally, financially or otherwise by drinking whiskey."

## NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

### Items of General Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

If you live in Clover and own a dog you must keep the dog tied up in the yard somewhere or else take chances of having your dog shot by the police, for the town council has passed an ordinance, already effective, that all dogs must be tied up for a period of 90 days and the policemen have orders to shoot and kill all dogs that are running at large.

Thus far few citizens of Clover have registered to vote in the election to be held next month on the question of issuing bonds to build a sewer system for the town. Less than 25 people have registered, it is stated. "There is nothing surprising about it, however, for the reason that the great majority of the citizens of Clover are already qualified to vote in the coming election."

Mrs. W. B. Steele, the oldest white resident of Yorkville, celebrated her 90th birthday last Friday. Despite her advanced years Mrs. Steele enjoys good health and has use of her mental and physical faculties to a degree equal to that which might be expected of a much younger person. Mrs. Steele was enrolled to vote in the recent primary election and is able to attend church services quite regularly.

Mr. S. E. Atkins of York No. 6 brought to the Yorkville Enquirer office Wednesday two stalks of tall corn, the tallest measuring 16 feet 4 inches from roots to tassel. Each stalk carried two ears, fully developed in the case of one, and but only partially developed in the case of the other. Mr. Atkins explained that the corn was grown on first year new ground, but he could not account for the unusual height of it, which, he says, exceeds anything he has ever seen.

Of special interest to the members of the Presbyterian denomination throughout the county is the announcement that the Synod of the Presbyterian church of South Carolina is to convene in unity Presbyterian church, Chester, on Tuesday, October 3, and will remain in session through October 6. Approximately 220 ministers and elders are expected to attend the meeting. The opening sermon is to be delivered by Rev. Jas. B. Green D. D., of the chair of theology of Columbia seminary, Columbia.

The Clover section of the country is perfectly safe, in the opinion of M. L. Ford, venerable "Sage of Clover." According to Mr. Ford, "about the only thing wrong is that a lot of people who are not working ought to go to work. The cotton crop is going to be a little short, but still it is going to be a pretty good crop. I'm selling my crop as fast as I pick it, as I usually do. I notice that a lot of farmers are coming to town, selling their cotton, stopping at a hot dog stand and getting a hot dog or two and a soft drink and whistling as they return home. Things could be a lot worse and I've seen 'em a lot worse."

Charged with the abandonment of his wife, Mrs. Essie Boone, C. A. Boone, a textile machinist of Rock Hill, was arrested in that town Monday and later released on bond of \$1,000 after he had been brought to Yorkville to be committed to jail. The abandoned wife, Mrs. Essie Boone, a rather attractive looking young woman, was in Yorkville Tuesday to consult an attorney in connection with the warrant against her husband. She is said to have stated that she expected to prosecute her husband to the full extent of the law. It is charged that Boone has been living in Rock Hill with a woman who is not his wife.

### Anderson Production Increased.

Continued prosperity in the automobile industry is forecast by an announcement just issued by J. W. Anderson, president of the Anderson Motor company, Rock Hill, to the effect that the production schedule on the new Anderson car will be increased to 10,000 cars during the next 12 months.

## CRITICIZES FARMERS.

### B. M. Lee Thinks They Show Poor Business Judgment.

Editor Fort Mill Times: For all the good it will do, the writer may as well sign his name to three blank pages. Nevertheless, I shall state a fact or two for the people to think over, especially the farmers. On every hand I hear it being discussed as to whether the farmers are blind, meek or just plain fools. They certainly have little business ability or they would change the order of world affairs promptly. The writer does not mean anything personal, and the world knows and acknowledges that the great men of the ages have, as a rule, come from the farms, and even today a few of the best and brainiest men of the country were born and country bred. I am speaking of the agricultural population as a class.

The men of money never cease to wonder why, with the world for his field, that the farmer does not take better care of himself. Why, for instance, will he persist in raising too much of one thing and not enough of another, and then permit New York robbers to tell him what he shall have for his products?

The Southern cotton farmer in particular is the laughing stock of the nation. When he swears, day after day, that his cotton has been burned up or eaten up by weevils, or some other calamity overtakes it, New York and the cotton mills give him the horse laugh and call him a liar and sell the market. They have the cotton planter's record before them for the last 40 years, and that record is not sincere and honorable. They know the cotton farmer's brain works backward. They know that when he swears the acreage will be reduced it will be increased. They know that a cotton farmer's signature to certain reduction pledges is not worth the paper it is written on.

Wall street never can understand why that if and when a farmer breaks his word to one pledge he will keep it on another. Every year at harvest time the "fool farmer" brings his cotton to town and fusses and cusses if the market is 25 cents, but he will sell it just the same at 15 cents. He made up his mind (what little he has) before he left home that the cotton was to be sold—and he knows as his old mule gets in sight of town that the cotton is same as sold. And cotton men know it, and New York knows it, and England knows it. To my mind it is one of the mysteries of the ages.

Why fight the boll weevil? Had it not been for the weevil last year, and this, from the Rio Grande river to the Atlantic ocean cotton today could hardly have been sold for 5 cents per pound. Think over that fact and see if you can figure out where the farmers have any brains as a class. He knows what he ought to do, but each farmer mistrusts the other—each tries to "put something over" on the other, with the result that they all wind up cussing Wall street and everything in general when they themselves have pulled down their own house.

But what's the use? It is to laugh. The "fool cotton farmer" we shall have with us always. What's the use of the world being sorry for some one who hasn't sense enough to help himself and who won't stand by his written or spoken word? How long would a merchant or a cotton buyer or a mill man stay in business if he forgot his written pledges, or notes, or spoken words? So don't ask him to hold his cotton or to reduce his acreage—he thinks there's a trick in it. Rather let him stand in the doorway and on the corners and smoke his pipe and get his cotton as cheap as you can. That's what he'd do to you if he could. He is easy to outwit, and he is never happy unless he is having a hard time "making ends meet." He just doesn't make one mistake and he is cotton scared. Yet, I

## William H. Armstrong Dead.

Another of the few Confederate veterans of the Fort Mill community passed to his reward shortly after 8 o'clock Tuesday morning when William H. Armstrong died at the home of his son, J. E. Armstrong, with whom he had made his home for the last 20 years. Mr. Armstrong had been ill for only a few days. His death was caused by an attack of influenza. As late as Saturday morning he was about the house and ate breakfast apparently in his usual health. Mr. Armstrong was in his 87th year and had spent all his long life in the Fort Mill community except the years he was in the Confederate army as a member of the Sixth South Carolina regiment. He had been a member of the Methodist church for more than half a century and the funeral services were conducted from St. John's church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by his pastor, the Rev. W. R. Bouknight, interment following in the city cemetery.

Mr. Armstrong is survived by three sons, W. C. Armstrong, J. L. Armstrong and J. E. Armstrong. He was a brother of the late J. M. Armstrong, who died a few months ago. Mr. Armstrong had many friends who will regret to learn of his death.

## Fort Mill Boys Defeat C. U. S.

The football team of the Fort Mill high school went to Charlotte Tuesday afternoon for its first game of the season with the Charlotte University school and by superior playing defeated the city boys, 18 to 0. The Charlotte Observer of Wednesday morning printed the following account of the game:

"Joe Meehan's C. S. U. eleven took its second licking of the season yesterday at the hands of the Fort Mill boys, 18 to 0, though the local prep school lads put up a far better exhibition of football than on their first appearance. A large crowd saw the game at Independence park."

The visiting lads played a better brand of ball, having more experienced material and thereby better team work, and managed to stave off a touchdown on the one-yard line.

With the ball in their possession and four downs to go, the locals met a stiff opposition on the part of the visitors and lost the ball on downs under the goal posts. While there were other opportunities to score, this was the best that presented itself."

## Age of St. John's Church.

Doubt has arisen in the minds of a number of the older citizens of Fort Mill as to the accuracy of the date on the cornerstone of St. John's Methodist church which bears the figures "1882" as the year in which the church was organized. Asked yesterday about the matter, an officer of the church said the records of the church in possession of the congregation did not go farther back than 1882 and that it was from these records the date of the organization of the church was taken.

A citizen of the town who has lived here many years said he remembered distinctly attending as a little boy the Sunday school of St. John's church as far back as 1879 and that he was confident of the original church building of the congregation in which the Sunday school was then held, and which occupied the site of the home on Clebourne street in which T. F. Lytle and his family now live, was erected not later than 1875 or 1876.

## Fourth Mill for Clover?

With Clover's third cotton mill, the Hampshire, now under construction, there is talk of still another mill for the town. The talk is that the fourth mill will be built by the same company that is building the Hampshire and that it will occupy a site where the Hawthorn mill baseball park now is.

prayer God bless him, for "all-cotton farmers" are in a fix.

B. M. Lee.

Fort Mill, Sept. 26.

## GOVERNOR HARVEY HERE.

### State's Executive Visits Fort Mill Tuesday Morning.

Fort Mill had the honor of entertaining for about an hour Tuesday morning Governor Wilson G. Harvey and Mrs. Harvey, who were returning to Columbia from the Made-in-Carolinas exposition in Charlotte. During their stay in Fort Mill, Governor Harvey made a short address to the pupils of the graded school. He was introduced by Arthur C. Lytle, mayor of the town and also a member of the governor's staff.

In his remarks to the school children Governor Harvey stressed the opportunities they have to secure an education and urged them to look to the future by making their school days count for something material in the life before them as citizens of the State. Even the smaller school children seemed to appreciate the fact that an unusual honor was being paid the school by the presence and address of the governor and the closest attention was paid to what he said. Both at the outset and at the conclusion of his remarks, Governor Harvey was liberally applauded.

At the conclusion of Governor Harvey's address, Mrs. Harvey was introduced by Mrs. J. B. Elliott and in a few words she expressed her appreciation of the reception tendered the governor and herself.

Following the visit of Governor and Mrs. Harvey to the school, they were entertained for a few minutes by Dr. J. B. Elliott and Mrs. Elliott at their home. Governor Harvey there recalled to Mrs. Elliott that he and her father, the late Rev. J. H. Thruwell, D. D., had been closely associated some years ago as officers of the grand lodge, Knights of Pythias of South Carolina, and said that he and Mrs. Harvey found peculiar pleasure in visiting, if only for a short time, at the home of the daughter of his esteemed friend of former days.

Already known and admired in Fort Mill for the reputation he is making as one of the best governors the State has had in years, many citizens of the town welcomed the opportunity Governor Harvey's visit here gave them to become acquainted with him and he was kept busy during much of his stay here shaking hands.

Governor and Mrs. Harvey left in their car for Columbia at 12 o'clock Tuesday, going by way of Camden.

## The Condition of Cotton.

The report of J. W. Jay & Co., New York cotton merchants, up to September 17 shows an average percentage condition for the United States of 49.5. The condition for South Carolina is put at 40.3, which is next to the lowest on the list, that of Georgia being 40.2. The average indicated yield per acre is 137.8 pounds. The yield in 1914 ran as high as 209.2 per acre.

The report carries the following additional information as to the crop in South Carolina:

"One week early to one week late. Weather hot and dry, causing premature opening. No top crop expected. Lint yield per acre light. Expect completion of picking November 1, while in many counties picking will be completed by October 15. Frost on average date will have no marked effect. Yield disappointing compared with original expectations. Weevil has been very destructive. General prospect bad."

## Corn Crop Also Short.

York county farmers are much concerned over the shortness of the corn crop which is almost as far below the average as is the cotton crop. The corn crop of the county this year will be only 60 per cent of normal, in the opinion of John R. Blair, county demonstration agent who is conversant with the outlook.

The decreased corn yield means that hundreds of York county farmers will be forced to buy corn next year. And buying corn from boll weevil cotton is poor business, say many farmers.